

IS THE SMALLEST LOT IN GREATER NEW YORK. WOMAN WHO WAITS

Not Large Enough to Stand On, but It's Taxed \$1 a Year.

SIZE IS 28 INCHES BY 2 1-2.

Tax Commissioners Worried for Weeks Over the Diminutive Plot.

OWNER CANNOT BE FOUND.

The "Property" is Valued at \$50 and It is Hoped That He Will Lay Claim to It.

A plot of ground measuring twenty-eight inches one way and two and a half inches the other cannot be of much use to any one, yet such are the rules of the Tax Commissioners' office that just such a diminutive piece of property caused a great deal of worry in that department of the city's machinery. It had gone untaxed for a year, this small plot of mother earth, and the owners of property adjacent raised strenuous objection and threatened to seize upon it unless rights were equalized in the neighborhood.

The ground is situated between Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth streets, on the East River front, at a triangular plot. The hypothesis is exactly twenty-eight inches long and the base two and a half inches broad. It is a more or less running lot, a point like a piece of cloth that falls from the tailor's shears. In fact, the property fell by the wayside in much the same manner. It was clipped off a lot by the surveyor who measured out what is now known as Exterior street. This thoroughfare is not very well known, but some day it promises to be of more or less importance to shipping men. It is five blocks long, takes an oblique course toward the river to Sixty-eighth street. It commences at Sixty-third street, one block further west than where it terminates at Exterior street from a tangent that caused the Tax Commissioners all the worry. Old corners were taken from the lots that stood in the way and were faced out square toward the docks. From one a piece five feet 1 1/2 inches was taken and from another three feet 1 1/2 inches, but these were accounted for in the assessment list, and no murmur reached the City Hall, and no of the remnants until it was discovered by the querulous holders that lot No. 22, between Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth streets, had suffered an incision which destroyed it of the triangular strip. There it had lain apparently unnoticed for months.

Little tufts of grass grew up from it in the summer. It was not big enough to accommodate the feet of a man standing out in the rain, but it was "property" nevertheless, and it was so reported upon later by an inspector who responded to complaints. In consequence a new chart was necessary, setting forth the exact location of this lonesome plot, and the matter was discussed before the Board of Tax Commissioners. The Board of Tax Commissioners looked for, but he could not be found. This fact excited little wonder in Exterior street, however, because the Board of Tax Commissioners had been told that the owner must pay \$1 a year tax. The owner is to be advertised for.

HORSE AND CARRIAGE TRADE NOTES.

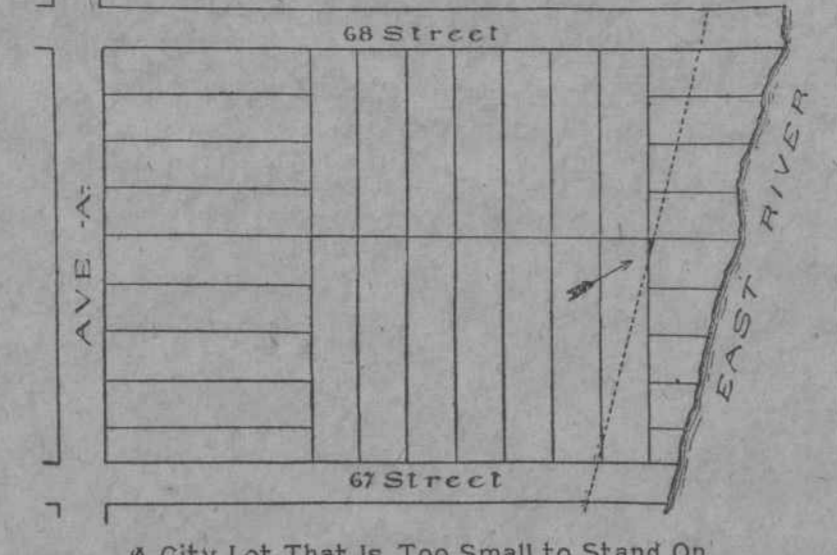
J. Dickman Brown Horse Company, No. 128 West Fifty-second street, J. D. Brown, president—Having anticipated the desire of the present horse-loving people for fine carriage, saddle and road horses, we have taken much pains to place before them the celebrated Vermont Morgan horses, being superior to hackneys and all others on account of their extreme speed, beautiful colors, combination, look and knee action and road qualities, ranging in size from 14.2 to 16.2. They are famed with good dispositions and the inheritance of a hundred years makes them easily managed in all places with all sorts of the latest inventions of wheels, couplings, shafts, no checkers, curb bits, no breechings or as leaders in tandem, four-in-hand, broughams, victorias, hansom cabs, ladies' sps, runabouts and the various kind wagons. A No. 1 saddler, very speedy trotters and unrepresented weight carriers and weight pullers. We have constant on hand a large portion of which are at Bridgeport, Conn., farm, undergoing preparation and acclimating to perfect them in the city. The farm being located but a short distance from the city, the climate is the same. We will be pleased to have interested persons call and look over.

Bull's Head Commission Stables, No. 405-420 Broad street, Hoy & Fox, proprietors—Our last week's sales show a decided improvement. At Tuesday's sale we disposed of two hundred head, and at Friday's sale about 175 head. The demand seems to be increasing instead of diminishing. We are now working with us and we anticipate a steadily increasing call for horses of all kinds from now on. At our next Tuesday (December 21) sale, we will have 250 head of horses to sell. They consist of trotters, pacers, cobs, matched pairs, single drivers, business, work and heavy draught horses. We note that many of the purchasers attending our Tuesday and Friday sales and attribute their presence to the attractive prices which prevail under Mr. Joseph Hoy's hammer. We are constantly selling, at private sale at both of our sales stables, and will be pleased to show horses at any time to persons needing them.

Studebaker Bros. Mfg. Co., corner Broadway and Prince street—W. R. Innes, manager—We can repair a large increase in our business, both for home and foreign demand. Much improved conditions exist over same time last year in all of our departments. We have had a very heavy call for our delivery wagons, for all kind of delivery purposes, and have had some large orders from the Adams, Westcott and Wells-Fargo Express companies for new express wagons, which will be delivered for building. The carriage and harness trade is unusually good with us for this time of the year, and we are showing many new designs and innovations in our vehicles, which we would be pleased to describe and explain to intending purchasers.

Elizabeth Wagon Works, 302 Hudson street, Joseph Meliburg, Manager—Our business for the past week has been far better than for the past ten years at this time of the year. We have received orders for six full-sized furniture vans and four half vans, also for three of our new style travelling market wagons, which are the complete of any wagon of the kind manufactured in the United States, and our express, grocers and butchers delivery wagons are being freely ordered for both city and country use. We are having a great demand for our three-spring top delivery wagon, which with us is a leader, and is selling at the extremely low price of \$90, and it is the best bargain on earth for the money. We extend a cordial invitation to the public to call and look at our large supply of wagons in stock.

W. H. Gray, "Carriage Reproductors," No. 20 and 22 Wooster street and corner of



A City Lot That Is Too Small to Stand On.

The diminutive plot indicated by the arrow in the cut is a source of much trouble to the Tax Commissioners. They don't know what to do with it, having failed to find the owner. It is in the form of a right triangle, the hypotenuse of which is 28 inches and base 2 1/2 inches. It is taxed \$1 a year.

Grand and Wooster streets—Sales of Rockaways and depot wagons have taken precedence during the past week, some broughams and Victorias have been disposed of, and runabouts are selling as well as ever. We have received a carload of the heavy and heavy showing the very latest up-to-date patterns and designs, highly decorated and elegantly finished. Many of our customers are taking advantage of the great bargains we are offering and purchasing them for holiday gifts. We extend a cordial invitation to intending purchasers of vehicles or sleighs, to come and inspect our stock, and know that we can supply the wants of the most critical.

Block & Meyer, horse dealers, Nos. 312 and 314 East One Hundred and Second street—Sales with us during the past fortnight have been very good, much better in fact than usual at this time of the year. We have received a carload of the heavy draught, business, and drivers to-day from Messrs. Bacon Bros., of Kansas, Illinois, they are the best lot of horses we have ever had to sell, and we anticipate a quick sale on account of the large demand we are having. The horses shipped by Messrs. Bacon Bros., to us are the cream of the Western market, and selected by them for us especially to fill the wants of this market, and we are at all times prepared to meet any and every demand. See them and be convinced, at our stables, Nos. 312 and 314 East One Hundred and Second street.

I. H. Dahman, East Twenty-fourth street—We have been selling a great many draught, business, general purpose and matched carriage pairs of horses during the last week, have also had some considerable export business. We are in receipt of several carloads of fine horses, and our stock on hand is complete in all kinds and breeds of horses. We handle everything from horses draught to light harness stock, and can show some fine matched carriage pairs, cobs, gentlemen's drivers and high-grade horses at a price made up for the "rock bottom" figures. A look at them will convince the most critical purchasers that they will find what they are looking for, both in class and price.

The Rubber Tire Wheel Co., 1784 Broadway—To say that we are busy is a mild statement; we are simply rushed to death to catch up with our many orders for rubber tires. We have proved to the entire satisfaction of all users of rubber tires and we make them for anything from a baby carriage to an omnibus, in the manner in which we apply them to the wheel is the only safe and sure way to do it. We use no cement at all, but the tires are held on by electric welded wires, which makes them not only the strongest but without any creep and very firm and resilient at the same time. Our tires are made in the United States that they are renowned, hence the great demand, we are enjoying.

Troy Carriage Works, Troy, New York, Myron J. Adams Treasurer and Secretary—Our bookboards are selling much better than could be expected at this season of the year; but we are not worried about the demand for these reasons. For easy riding qualities no vehicle ever constructed can compare with our bookboards. They are highly finished, made in four styles, for two, four, six and eight passengers. They are built with great rigidity and freedom from side sway than any other gear on the market and having great length of spring, they give greater comfort and ease in driving. We manufacture all styles and kinds of carriages and have a large stock on hand at our salesrooms.

The J. Newton Van Ness Company, No. 120 Warren and No. 50 Chambers street—Dealing as we do in everything which pertains to a horse we are pleased to state that all of our departments are showing large gains over the same time last year. The demand for all kinds of horse gear is increasing, and we are carrying a large stock of all the different branches carried by us, and having been established since 1795 (over a hundred years), we flatter ourselves that we know the demands of the horse world. Every article needed for the horse, stable, carriage and sleigh will be found in our immense and varied stock, from the very best of the kind to the lowest in price. Call and look over.

Among the Musicians.

The programme originally announced for tonight's concert at the Metropolitan Opera House has been changed. The latest announcement of the management promises Seld and his orchestra, with Mme. Sembrich, Gerardi and Anello Club as the soloists. The principal soloists at the concert, announced for to-morrow night, are Mlle. Verlet, soprano, and Miss Jennie Hoyle, violinist. The club will sing part songs; also Mendelssohn's "To the Sons of Art."

Mason's "Eve" will be given at the third entertainment of the Society of Musical Arts on Tuesday evening, with a chorus of sixty, besides the three characters. The "Eve" soloist of the occasion will be Leon Janney, an eminent French horn player and soloist. The club will sing part songs; also Mendelssohn's "To the Sons of Art."

The annual Christmas performance of the Messiah, by the Ontario Society of New York, will occur Wednesday afternoon, December 20, and Thursday evening, December 30. Clementine De Vere, Mrs. Carl Altes, Messrs. Van Housen and Ralston and the soloists. Two of this group are new to the public here, though they will be heard later in opera, as they are members of the Damrosch-Bull Company.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Convicted of Murdering Her Husband by Poison.

TO BE EXECUTED JAN. 20.

Remarkable Letter of the Dead Man Exonerating His Wife.

Cayuga, Ont., Dec. 18.—A woman, young and good looking, the first woman ever sentenced to death in the province, lies in the old jail at Cayuga, Haldimand County, awaiting the extreme penalty of the law on January 20 next.

She was convicted of the murder of her young husband after a trial filled with dramatic incidents.

Evidence was adduced showing that husband and wife fondly loved each other, but that his mother had opposed the union. Most striking of all was a letter, purporting to be written by the husband, and the authenticity of which was not disproven, solemnly adjuring "whom it may concern," that, should he suddenly die, his wife should not be suspected or blamed, as he knew that he was subject to "spells," that might at any time be fatal.

The reason for his writing this was said to be the bitter feelings that had arisen through the transference, by him to his wife, of policies of life insurance that had been in the name of others.

The woman is Olive Adele Sternaman. Her husband was George H. Sternaman. When they were married he carried a life insurance policy for \$200 in favor of his mother, and one for \$500 in favor of his father. Within a week after the marriage both policies were transferred to the wife's name, a third policy, for \$1,000, was afterward taken out, and the Carpenters' Union was to pay a death benefit of \$1,000.

It was while the couple were on an excursion trip, on June 3, to Buffalo, which was but a few hours' ride from Cayuga, that Sternaman was taken ill. The couple turned to their Ontario home, where the husband grew gradually worse.

On June 12 he took to his bed. It was on June 16 that he wrote the letter exonerating his wife from any share in his possible death. But this letter was contrary to expectation, used by the trial with strong effect by the eloquent prosecutor against the woman herself.

Throughout his long illness, Sternaman's wife was constant and unflinching in her attentions, serving him both his food and medicine, with the exception of one afternoon, when they were administered by his mother.

Sternaman did not die until August 20, Dr. Park, a local physician, diagnosed his case as heart failure, and pronounced him to be suffering from a fatal ailment. A young man that he was suffering from atrophy of the liver.

There was evidence in a case in which more flimsy evidence was used, and in which greater advantages were taken of a defendant. An autopsy was promptly held, but nothing was discovered. There were whispers, however, of mystery in the death, and six weeks after the burial the body was exhumed, and the viscera sent to the governmental analyst for examination. Arsenical poison was then proved.

There was considerable doubt expressed, however, as to whether the arsenic had not gotten into the body in the ordinary food. Undertaker Snyder's evidence was very unsatisfactory on this point. He seemed to enjoy his own importance in being connected with a famous case, and his traditions in his own evidence were, to him, of minor importance.

The strongest evidence against the woman was that of Dr. Frost, who said that he suspected something unusual as the cause of Sternaman's illness, and closely questioned the wife in regard to it. Although but a young woman, Sternaman was a second husband, and Dr. Frost says that he told her plainly that her first husband died under suspicious circumstances.

The trial was very brief, for there were few witnesses. The opposing lawyers, and particularly the prosecutor, displayed great skill in summing up the charge of the judge was severely unsympathetic. The jury was out four hours, and there was a dramatic scene in the crowded court room when the verdict of "guilty" was announced.

The judge asked the prisoner if she had any reason to offer why sentence should not be pronounced, and the poor woman, struggling to her feet, faintly cried out that she was innocent. She was nevertheless solemnly sentenced to be hanged on January 20.

Mrs. Sternaman looked about her in a dazed way, scarcely able to realize the awfulness of her position. Then she cried out in a hoarse voice: "Oh, Judge! Judge! Is that all the justice there is in this country? My God! Is there nothing to save me?"

Her attorney made every effort to secure a new trial, but was far without effect.

ALMANAC FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 19.

Sun rises 7:30 M. sets 4:25 A. M.

MOON rises 1:30 M. sets 11:25 A. M.

LOW WATER 10:30 A. M. HIGH WATER 4:30 P. M.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND. SANDY HOOK.

H. W. L. W. H. W. L. W.

4:15 A. M. 10:30 A. M. 4:30 P. M. 10:30 P. M.

NOTE—High water at Hell Gate occurs 1 hour later than at Sandy Hook.

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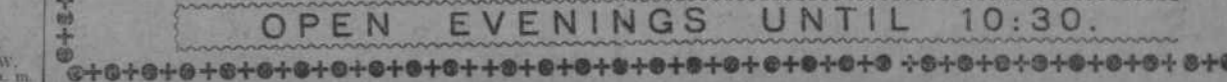
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